

Prospect Heights, IL - U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Highland Park) announced a \$377,000 FEMA grant Wednesday awarded to the Prospect Heights Fire Department. The grant falls under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and will be used to upgrade life saving emergency equipment in Prospect Heights paramedic units and protection equipment for our first responders.. "Our first responders have to be able to provide the best and safest response to residents in Prospect Heights," said Kirk. "Through these funds, Prospect Heights Fire Department will be able to upgrade needed emergency equipment that helps save lives"

The grant will pay for three new EKG monitors to be equipped in ambulances. The new monitors are able to better analyze whether suspected heart attack patients are receiving proper ventilation and oxygen. The grant also pays for major upgrades to the fire department's self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA). The current SCBA equipment they are using is outdated, doesn't meet safety standards and puts firefighters at-risk.

"We must protect the health and safety of our first responders," said Kirk. "The need to have modern equipment that better protects our residents and first responders becomes greater as our communities grow and the values and size of our homes increase. I am pleased that FEMA recognized the Prospect Heights Fire Department's need to replace aging equipment with modern technology that protects the lives of civilians and first responders."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness in cooperation with the Department's United States Fire Administration.

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